

# Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board

## Michigan

### Domestic and Sexual Violence Homicides

**October 1999 – September 2000**

October was designated Domestic Violence Awareness Month as a means of raising awareness about violence against women, celebrating the many survivors of domestic violence and memorializing those who did not survive the violence. The original homicide list was created ten years ago for workers in the Battered Women's Movement to use during candlelight vigils in October. They believed it was important to remember the people who died in fear and terror, and to emphasize the ultimate outcome of unchecked intimate partner violence. Requests for the list have now expanded to include trainers, pastors, batterer intervention facilitators, prosecutors, students and others. These stories were written not to cause despair, but to renew our determination to do all we can to stop the violence before it escalates to one more death.

This homicide list contains summaries of newspaper articles about the people in Michigan who have died as a result of domestic or sexual violence. The articles were collected from newspapers from all over Michigan. A concerted effort was made to include as much as possible about the victims and to refrain from using language that trivializes the horrible events surrounding their murders. Because the information found in the following pages comes from newspapers, the facts are often sketchy and little of "who" the victims were is revealed. The list does not purport to represent the full number of cases involving domestic or sexual homicide. All homicides in the state do not appear in the newspapers. There is no way to know the extent of the violence experienced by the women on this list before the perpetrators took the final and terrible step that ended a life. What is known is included. In many cases where charges were made against the assailants, there is no indication of whether there was a finding of guilt or subsequent sentencing.

The ages of the victims this year range from two weeks old to 64 years old. Of the 35 children who lost their mothers, 24 of them were in the home when their mothers were murdered. At least 8 of the children found their mothers' bodies and two little boys watched from a window as their father shot their mother and her friend and then turned the gun on himself. We can only surmise what any of these children might see when they close their eyes at night. According to the information contained in the news clippings, 13 people were murdered by estranged or ex-husbands.

Ellen Hayse

#### **Nina Beaseley – Age unknown Muskegon, MI**

Nina was stabbed to death in her home in November, 1999. Kenneth Jordan confessed to killing her saying that they had "argued over money and a fight broke out". A forensic pathologist found 70 stab wounds on Nina's head and neck as well as blunt force injuries, burns from an iron and evidence of strangulation as a result of the "argument". On Jan 8th Jordan was ordered to stand trial on an open murder charge.

#### **Lorraine Anadena Burnett – Age 34 Allegan Township, MI**

Lorraine's body was found in her bed with multiple stab wounds on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2000. The sheriff's officer who found her body said that it was one of the most violent deaths he'd seen in a long time. Her ex-husband Tommy Lee Burnett has been

charged with her murder. Their 10-year-old son was asleep in the house at the time of the murder and Burnett dropped the boy off at his grandmother's house as he fled the state. He later turned himself in to the police in Indiana.

**Doug Crane – Age 45 Portage, MI**

Nanette Vasquez said Benito Vasquez (her estranged husband) walked into her home and shot her boyfriend Doug Crane on April 15<sup>th</sup>. He then took her hostage for several hours during which he assaulted and raped her. She finally talked him into turning himself in. Doug Crane died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Benito Vasquez is charged with murder, rape, kidnapping, assault and home invasion. He faces life in prison.

**Susan Craft – Age 44 Eastpointe, MI**

Susan died from a blow to the head on December 29<sup>th</sup> 1999. Her boyfriend, Richard Dinda, admitted to hitting her once with his fist during an argument. The detective on the case thought he might have used something else, but no weapon was found. Dinda is charged with second-degree murder.

**Helen Dalton – Age 36 Grand Rapids, MI**

Helen was shot in the neck on July 28<sup>th</sup> and died two days later. A neighbor had heard arguing next door and at one point heard a body hit the wall. Later in the day Helen told the neighbor that by her boyfriend was packing his things and getting ready to leave. But Walter Gillen did not leave and later that night the shooting occurred. He told police that he accidentally shot Helen while unloading his .357 magnum revolver. Police gathered evidence for two weeks and then charged him with the killing. Interviews with relatives and neighbors indicated that Helen had suffered cuts and bruises from Gillen in the past. He is being held without bond. Helen was the mother of 9 and 10-year-old boys.

**Sandra Ann Duyst – Age 40 Grand Rapids, MI**

Sandra's body was found in her bedroom on March 29 after her husband called 911 and told police she had committed suicide. Sandra had been shot twice behind her right ear. Results of DNA and blood-spatter tests and the autopsy determined that her death was a homicide. Her husband David Duyst Sr., former board president of West Side Christian School, told police that his wife had been depressed and suicidal since being kicked in the head by one of her horses in 1998. It was not long after the injury that Sandra hid a note in the china cabinet for her sister which said "If anything has happened to me look first to David Duyst Sr. He could be my killer. I would never commit suicide. He may have killed me." The note also said that her head injury was not from her horse kicking her in the head but from her husband beating her. David Duyst has been charged with first-degree murder. Sandra was the mother of three children and an award-winning equestrian

**Pearl Evans – Age 48 Decatur, MI**

Pearl Evans was hospitalized on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with extensive injuries and underwent major surgery and lapsed into a coma. Her husband, Larry Evans, maintained that she fell at home. He was charged with assault to do great bodily harm less than murder. In December he was charged with domestic assault and those charges were still pending when Pearl was injured in January. After spending more than two months in a coma, Pearl died on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Larry Evans has been charged with her murder

**James Franklin – Age 32 Taylor, MI**

James Franklin was shot to death on April 6<sup>th</sup> by Frank Lee, the ex-husband of Carolyn Lee. Lee immediately turned and shot Carolyn in the head and face as she stood in the driveway and then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.

Their two sons watched it all from the front window of their home. Carolyn was in critical condition at the University of Michigan hospital. Neighbors said that the couple had been married for 17 years before separating. They just couldn't imagine him being so violent.

**Penne Sue Gloor – Age 41 Sturgis, MI**

Penne's husband, James Gloor, shot her twice in the back of the head and then shot himself in the chest. They were found dead in their home on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2000. One of Penne's friends had called the police because she had not shown up for work. Friends said the couple had been having problems because James was ill and unemployed and had threatened suicide in the past.

**Wanda Harrington – Age 45 Detroit, MI**

**Brian Harrington – Age 3**

On October 14<sup>th</sup> 1999, Paul Harrington borrowed a gun from across the street. The next morning he waited until his older son left for school before he shot his wife Wanda who was asleep on the couch. He then walked into the dining room where his son Brian was playing and shot him three times at close range. After placing Brian's body on the sofa next to the body of his mother, Harrington called 911. In a statement to police, Harrington said, "The same thing happened in 1975. They should have put me away then." In 1975, Harrington was a Detroit police officer when his wife Becky separated from him. He killed her and their daughters Pamela, 9 and Cassandra 4 using his service revolver. He was found innocent of those murders by reason of insanity. For the deaths of his second family Harrington was ordered to stand trial on two counts of first-degree murder.

**Terry Hegle – Age 56 Bay City, MI**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Terry Hegle was stabbed in the chest by Timothy Chislea as he came out of a restaurant. Terry was dating Chislea's wife whom he had previously represented in divorce proceedings. As Terry Hegle lay dying Chislea plunged a second knife into his own chest and fell forward on Terry's body driving the knife deeper into his own chest. Both men died later at the hospital. Chislea left a note for his wife that read "Death is easier to handle than divorce".

**Joyce Holey – Age 33 Bath Township, MI**

Joyce's body was found on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2000 on a dirt road. An autopsy determined she died from a blunt trauma. After a month of investigation police arrested Bryon Marsh, her boyfriend of 8 years and accused him of hitting Joyce with his truck. Byron Marsh was charged with second-degree murder and faces up to life in prison.

**Tracy Islam – Age 35 Plymouth, MI**

Tracy Islam disappeared after an argument with her estranged husband Dr. Azizul Islam on December 19, 1999. On December 22<sup>nd</sup> a waitress at a fast-food restaurant found a large plastic bag in a dumpster that is only to be used for grease. The bag contained the limbs of Tracy Islam. On December 31<sup>st</sup> a human torso was found in a field in Ohio that DNA tests proved to be Tracy's. She had recently filed for divorce and went to England to stay with her sister. In December she returned to Michigan to see her teenage children and finalize the divorce. But Tracy called her sister after her first night back because she was afraid of her husband and wanted to return to England early. When she disappeared, her children thought she must have returned to England. But when she didn't show up, Tracy's sister filed a missing person's report. After her body was identified, a search of her husband's home revealed traces of her blood in the basement. He was arrested and is being tried for murder. It is not known how Tracy Islam died. According to the medical examiner "the cause of death is violence, the manner of death is homicide".

**Bonnie Jean Jones – Age 42 Kalamazoo, MI**

Bonnie Jean was stabbed in the abdomen with a steak knife during "an argument" on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She died two days later. Witnesses told a reporter that the day of the stabbing they saw Daavid Martinez "knock her down, push her and kick her" and heard him say "I'll kill you." A witness also saw Bonnie come outside crying with a bruised eye, and later saw Martinez grabbing her neck with one hand and punching her with the other." Martinez has been charged with open murder.

**Jeanette Kay Kelly – Age 42 Portage, MI**

Jeanette was taken hostage in her home by Dale McNeal her former boyfriend on August 9<sup>th</sup>. After a four-hour standoff, McNeal shot her in the head and then turned the gun on himself. Her two daughters escaped as a result of a plan their mother had made with them if McNeal ever showed up. Two weeks previously she had requested a Personal Protection Order in which she stated "Please help protect me from this man. I am truly afraid of what he might do." McNeal had threatened to kill her and her entire family if she broke up with him. Jeanette was the mother of three children.

**Sandra Lee Klomp – Age 56 Kalamazoo Township, MI**

On May 1<sup>st</sup> Sandra was murdered by her husband of 31 years, William Klomp, who then killed himself. Police recovered a small caliber handgun from their bloodstained room. According to the newspaper "Court and police records indicate that the marriage was turbulent and sometimes violent". In 1997 Sandra filed for divorce and obtained a personal protection order after Klomp tried to run her off the road.

**Veronica Kuclo-Raub – Age 34 Garden City, MI**

On Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1999, two of Veronica's daughters found her lifeless body in her bed. She had been stabbed to death. A week earlier Veronica's daughter Krystal, age 15, heard her parents arguing and then heard her father, Peter Raub, threaten to kill Veronica when she least expected it. Veronica was planning to leave her husband on November 1<sup>st</sup> but the couple had agreed to get along until after a Halloween fundraising party they were hosting on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The morning after the party Krystal was awakened by her sister Rya who had found their mother not breathing and with blood on her mouth. The two girls had to go to a neighbors' house to call 911 because their father had taken the phones. Two younger children were still sleeping. Raub disappeared before his wife's body was found, but was arrested in Los Angeles a month later. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15-30 years in prison.

**Jessica Ledford – Age 18 Grand Rapids, MI**

Jessica's partly nude body was found in a neighborhood park on the morning of May 21<sup>st</sup> 2000. She had been stabbed, strangled and sexually assaulted. Marc Osborne, whom Jessica had called her "little brother", had been with her the night before. He admitted to the killing, but said the sex had been consensual and rough. The jury found him guilty of rape and first-degree murder. Osborne was sentenced to life without parole.

**Natalie Lester – Age 34 Shelby Township, MI**

Natalie's death in the early hours of January 1<sup>st</sup> was the first homicide reported in Macomb County in the year 2000. Natalie and her boyfriend, Samuel Thomas Lucero had returned to his parents' home with another couple after a New Year's celebration. She went upstairs with Lucero and the other couple heard them arguing. When he came downstairs he told them that Natalie had been injured. Paramedics found her dead of a single shotgun blast to the head. Lucero has been arraigned on a charge of open murder.

**Deanna Sue Lividini – Age 28 Owosso, MI**

Deanna was shot at least 5 times with a semi-automatic pistol on April 26<sup>th</sup> when she opened the door to her ex-boyfriend Brad E. Holmes. He had already been charged with beating her but he failed to show up for his trial where she was to be a witness. Deanna's sister and her two children, and Deanna's two children were asleep in the home when she was murdered. The following day Brad Holmes was found dead in his car. He had shot himself in the head using the same gun that was used to kill Deanna.

**Jennifer Luther – Age 24 Rochester Hills, MI**

Police found Jennifer's fully clothed body in a bathtub in her home on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Her estranged husband Clarence Luther is charged with first-degree murder for forcing her into the bathtub and holding her under water until she drowned. The couple's three-year-old daughter was asleep in her room during the murder. Jennifer separated from Luther 5 months earlier. She had a Personal Protection Order.

**Shirley Merlington – Age 64 Eaton Rapids, MI**

Shirley died on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1999 as a result of being shot once in the chest with a shotgun. According to news reports, her husband Horace Merlington, admitted the killing to his daughter because he thought Shirley was having an affair. Later, his lawyer tried to claim it was an accident, but a forensic pathologist testified that Shirley was three to eight feet from the barrel and that the manner of death was homicide. Merlington was held on charges of open murder/felony firearm.

**Patti Nickerson Manning – Age 40 Palmer, MI**

Police found Patti's body in her home on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2000, after receiving a 911 call from her husband Donald Manning stating that that he "had fatally shot his wife". Donald Manning was arrested and arraigned on a charge of open murder. No further information is available about the crime. A childhood friend of Patti's who is a long-time activist in the Battered Women's Movement had this to say about her. "Patti liked: laughing so hard her face hurt; taking a drive on a beautiful road; lying in bed and listening to the rain outside; rainbows and sunshine in the rain; cold milk and warm cookies; finding a bargain; walking in the woods; and children." Patti's friend also told of her courage when she escaped from a violent husband in Maine years ago. She made it halfway across the country to Michigan with her three children in tow and no money. In 1989 her 5-year-old daughter was mauled to death by a wolf dog and Patti was instrumental in the passage of a law controlling the breeding of the animal. Patti lived with her husband in a remote area of Marquette County, which may have prevented her from escaping this time.

**Lynn Marie Ormsby – Age 43 Rose City, MI**

Lynn died on September 11<sup>th</sup> when her live-in boyfriend, Daniel Rashotte, shot her in the chest. Her sons, ages 9 and 11, came around the corner and found Lynn lying in the doorway unresponsive with blood spilling from her mouth. Rashotte told them "I shot your mother." The children tried to revive her without success and then ran outside screaming. The boys and their 13-year-old sister ran to a neighbor's house to call 911. The neighbor told reporters, "I'll never forget the look in that little boy's eyes." While police were surrounding the house a shot was heard. They found Lynn's body and Rashotte's body nearby. He had shot himself in the head with a rifle.

Rashotte was the second man to have subjected Lynn and her children to domestic terrorism. In September 1997 the children's father held them all hostage in the same home. When he finally surrendered, police found 15 assault rifles, shotguns, handguns and 1,500 rounds of ammunition. The children were covered with welts and bruises. They told the court about years of regular beatings by their father. He was convicted of first-degree child abuse and federal firearm violations

and is presently in prison. Lynn admitted to abuse and neglect of her children due to "failure to protect", and her children were taken away and put in foster homes. They were eventually returned. Once Lynn was safe from her husband because he was in jail, she filed for divorce. Even though he was behind bars she needed to obtain a Personal Protection Order because he was threatening and harassing her from prison. One news article reported, "Authorities acknowledge that Lynn feared losing her children again if they discovered any violence at home".

**Vimalaben Patel – Age 36 Bay City, MI**

Vimalaben died June 28<sup>th</sup>, two days after being set on fire. She suffered burns over 60% of her body and lost all of her fingers. Her husband, Rameshbhai Patel, was originally charged with assault with intent to commit murder. The charge is now open murder and extortion.

**George Pluta – Age 47 Paw Paw, MI**

He was shot to death on August 25<sup>th</sup> by John Petry. Petry and his wife were in the process of divorcing and he was angry over her relationship with George Pluta. When the police arrived, Petry shot himself in the head and died.

**Vialette Pratt – Age 23 Clinton Township, MI**

**Natalya Pratt – Age 3 months**

Vialette and her infant daughter were strangled to death in their beds on August 29<sup>th</sup> by Jeremy John Pratt. Police said that Pratt admitted killing his wife and daughter. He told them he strangled Vialette during sex and suffocated the baby in her crib near the bed because she woke up. The woman's sister was sleeping with her son downstairs and discovered the bodies. Pratt turned himself in that same day. He was convicted of sexual assault in 1999 and was currently attending anger management classes "to deal with a temper problem." The newspaper quoted Detective Captain Gary Franey about the situation "There was some pent-up hostilities with the marriage".

**Theresa Redmon – Age 30 Muskegon Heights, MI**

Theresa's nude and battered body was driven to the home of a friend by the man who assaulted her on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. She was pronounced dead shortly after. The assailant had been in a relationship with her for the past year and had beaten her in a motel earlier in the evening. Police had not released the perpetrator's name by the time the news article was published.

**Rae Ann Rice – Age 32 Mt. Clemens, MI**

**Lisa Blaze – Age 33 Dane Baetz – Age 38**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Rae Ann, her sister Lisa and Lisa's boyfriend Dane were ambushed in the Rice home where they had gone to retrieve Rae Ann's belongings. She had separated from her husband after he pulled a gun on her several days earlier. Rae Ann had gotten the children out of the house as she was advised to do, and then returned with support to get some of her belongings at a time when Rice would normally have been at work. But he had been waiting for them. Michael Rice's brother was upstairs in the home when he heard screaming and shots being fired. Dane was severely wounded but managed to escape from the basement and told the brother to call 911. He later died in surgery. Police found the bodies of Rae Ann and Lisa in the basement. They had each been shot in the head. Michael Rice had committed suicide and his body was found lying near Rae Ann. The couple had two boys and Michael Rice had two children from a previous relationship.

**Tonda Rondo – Age 28 Adrian, MI**

Tonda's nine-year-old daughter found her lifeless body in her bed on March 9<sup>th</sup>. She had been strangled to death. Police later found the body of Jeffery Alan Rondo in the garage with a fatal gunshot wound to the head. Tonda had filed for divorce Feb 15<sup>th</sup> but had agreed to continue living in the house to care for their three children until the settlement. All three children were at home when the bodies were discovered.

**L.C. Rosebud – Age 50 *Benton Harbor, MI***

L.C. Rosebud's partially burned body was discovered in the back seat of his vehicle on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999. He had been clubbed to death with a metal pipe the previous night. Police arrested Gregory Penn for the death. They believe he sought revenge for an affair he thought LC had with his wife the year before. Five months earlier, after hearing his wife Diane on the telephone with LC, he beat her with a pool cue leaving her with cuts, bruises and several broken bones. Penn served four months in jail for the beating and had been released shortly before the attack on LC. Penn has been charged with open murder.

**Nicole Sanchez -- Age 17 *Saginaw, MI***

Police found Nicole dying on a bed in a house known to narcotics officers on September 27<sup>th</sup> 1999. Police arrested Nicole's 23-year-old boyfriend Lionel Villareal at the scene. He first told them that Nicole had committed suicide, and then changed his story repeatedly during questioning. Villareal was arraigned on an open charge of murder and felony firearm use. Nicole was the daughter of a Saginaw Police Detective.

**LaShawn Sutherland – Age 21 *Detroit, MI***

LaShawn, mother of a two-week old infant, was attacked on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and beaten to death with a shovel and a two-by-four. Her 19-year-old sister told police that she, LaShawn and their mother were in the home when Antoine M. Anderson (LaShawn's ex-boyfriend) broke in and began a rampage that lasted more than eight hours. She said he tied them up with duct tape, raped her and covered their heads with plastic. He also attempted to suffocate the infant by putting plastic and heavy blankets over him. He intermittently beat LaShawn and the other two women over the entire time he was in the home. After he finally left, LaShawn's sister escaped and called 911. Police found the three women covered in blood. LaShawn was dead, her mother was placed in intensive care and her sister was hospitalized for several days. The infant is reported to be doing well, although his grandmother and aunt are still recovering from the attack. Anderson was found hiding in an abandoned house. He was arraigned on charges of first-degree murder, three counts of attempted murder, criminal sexual assault and home invasion.

**Gwenda Meshayl Thompson – Age 42 *Benton Township, MI***

On April 29<sup>th</sup> Gwenda's body was found on the side of the road a half-mile from the local police station. She had been stabbed or cut 28 times and her throat was slashed. Robert Lee Thomas, an acquaintance of Gwenda's, is being charged with her murder. He had been convicted of slashing his girlfriend's face and neck 10 years earlier and had just recently been released from prison. Gwenda was the mother of four children.

**Margaret Wardle – Age 19 *Kalamazoo, MI***

Margaret died October 18<sup>th</sup> 1999 after being shot twice by her ex-boyfriend Neenef Odah, who then killed himself. Both of them were students at Kalamazoo College and had been arguing in his dorm room when students in a nearby room heard the noise and the shots and called the police. Several students said that although they were no longer dating, Odah became jealous when he saw Margaret at a dance with another man.

**Nanette M. Wells** – Age 35 *Flint, MI*

Nanette's children discovered her body in her bedroom on the morning of April 16<sup>th</sup>. An autopsy revealed that she had died of asphyxiation. Jody Wells, her husband, was arraigned and held without bond on a charge of killing his wife by suffocation. The couple had four children between them.

**Unknown Woman** – Age approximately 40 *Clinton Township, MI*

Police found a woman and man dead in their home on September 24 after an apparent hostage situation that ended after the man killed himself. Shots were fired when the police approached the house after hearing yelling in the background when a call was made by the woman to a medical alert system. Later the man called out that everything was OK, but two hours later one more shot was heard and the man was found dead. No further details are known. A neighbor said "It's a total shock to me that something would go that far without any signs. If they had any problems, they hid it well."